

2010 Teaching Artist Award Recipient

Teaching Artist Award

The Teaching Artist Award is designed to recognize Teaching Artists who advance the arts learning and teaching artist field in Arizona through the use of innovation and best practices in work occurring in school and community settings.

Josh Schachter

Finding Voice Project Catalina Magnet High School, Tucson, AZ

Teaching artist Josh Schachter received the inaugural award for innovation and leadership for his completed "Finding Voice" project, meant to help Tucson's refugee and immigrant youth build confidence, improve academic skills, fortify community connections, and develop visual and literary voices. In compliance with the terms of the award, which require the recipient to disseminate project findings with a broad audience, Schachter co-presented a workshop with Arts Learning Coordinator Alex Nelson at the Arts Education Partnership forum in Washington, DC.

Finding Voice is dedicated to helping refugee and immigrant youth in ESL classes at Catalina Magnet High School develop their literacy skills by photographing, writing, and speaking about critical social issues in their lives and communities.

Finding Voice was founded in 2006 by ESL teacher Julie Kasper and teaching artist Josh Schachter in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee. The project is supported largely by the Tucson Pima Arts Council and Every Voice in Action Foundation, and works with youth from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burundi, Croatia, Congo, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Mexico, Nepal, Marshall Islands, Russia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Turkey, Yemen, Vietnam.

